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h. mclaudh
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Surya Kumar Kovvali et al. Art Unit :
Serial No. : 09/536,416 Examiner :
Filed : March 28, 2000
Title : TRANSPORT OF ISOCHRONOUS AND BURSTY DATA ON A SONET RING

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

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In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-17 and add new claims 18-48 as follows. **Technology Center 2600**

18. A method for communicating between a plurality of nodes of a communication system in which a series of fixed-length frames pass between the nodes of the system comprising:

provisioning the communication system, including allocating in each frame a fixed part, said fixed part including a first part of the frame for passing control information between the nodes and a second part for passing data streams over a plurality of dynamically allocated channels between the nodes;

at a first node in the system,

- (1) receiving a communication request for a dynamically allocated channel between a second node and a third node including receiving request data from the second node in the first part of a received frame,
- (2) allocating a portion of the second part of the frames to said dynamically allocated channel, and

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